

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 11, 13, 14, and 16-20 are currently active in this case. Claims 21-30 have been canceled by way of the present amendment. Each new and amended claim is supported by the specification and claims as originally submitted and no new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 21-24 were rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over *Oonishi et al.* (U.S. Pat No. 5,281,991, hereinafter *Oonishi*) in view of *lima* (U.S. Patent No. 5,393,149); Claims 25 and 26 were rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over *Oshino et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,517,915, hereinafter *Oshino*) in view of *Parker* (U.S. Patent No. 5,394,225) and *Spurr et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,099,178, hereinafter *Spurr*); and Claims 27-30 were rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over *Oshino, Parker, and Spurr* and in further view of *lima*.

Applicant appreciatively acknowledges the allowance of Claims 11, 13, 14, and 16-20.

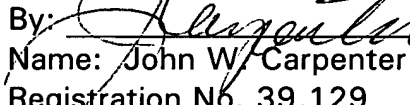
Applicants hereby request cancellation, without prejudice, of Claims 21-30.

Consequently, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and it is respectfully submitted that this case is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

REED SMITH CROSBY HEAFEY LLP
A Professional Corporation

Dated: June 10, 2003

By: 
Name: John W. Carpenter
Registration No. 39,129
Attorney for Applicant

Two Embarcadero Center
Suite 2000
PO Box 7936
San Francisco, CA 94120-7936
Direct Dial (415) 659-5927
(415) 543-8700 Telephone
(415) 391-8269 Facsimile